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Concerning the

DECLARATION

To be signed by all persons in publick Trust.

At Edinburgh, the fifth day of September, one thousand six hundred and sixty two.



Whereas as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His Majesties Restitution to His Royal Government, to restore this Kingdom to its ancient liberties and peace, and to deliver His Majesties good Subjects from these miseries and bondage whereby they have been oppressed, during these troubles; And the Estates of Parliament, finding themselves obliged in a due resentment of this mercy, and in discharge of that duty they owe to God, to the Kings Majesty, to the publick peace of the Kingdom, and the good of His Subjects, To use all means for the due preservation of that peace and happiness they now enjoy under His Royal Government; and to prevent and suppress every thing that may tend to the renewing or labouring of these courses, in which the late Rebellion hath been fomented and carried on; And conceiving, that the employing of persons of sound principles and entire loyalty, in all offices of Trust and places of publick Administration, will conduce much to these ends. Therefore, and for quietting the spirits of His Majesties good Subjects, and begetting a confidence in them of their security for the future, His Majesty hath thought fit, with advice and consent of His Estates of Parliament, to Statute, Ordain and Enact; Likeas His Majesty, by these presents, doth, with advice foresaid, Statute, Ordain and Enact, That all such persons as shall hereafter be called or admitted to any publick Trust or Office, under His Majesties Government within this Kingdom; that is to say, to be Officers of State, Members of Parliament, Privy Counsellors, Lords of Session, Commissioners in Exchequer, Members of the Colledge of Justice, Sheriffs, Stewards or Commissaries, their Deputes and Clerks, Magistrates and Council of Burroughs, Justices of Peace and their Clerks, or any other publick Charge, Office and Trust within this Kingdom; shall at and before their admission to the exercise of such Places or Offices, publicly, in face of the respective Courts they relate to, subscribe the Declaration underwritten: And that they shall have no right to their said Offices or Benefices thereof, untill they subscribe the same as said is; but that every such person who shall offer to enter and exercise any such Office, before he subscribe the Declaration, is to be reputed and punished as an usurper of His Majesties Authority, and the place to be disposed to another. Likeas His Majesty doth, with advice foresaid, remit to His Commissioner, to take such course as he shall think fit, how these who are presently in office, may subscribe the said Declaration. And it is hereby Declared, that this Act is without prejudice of any former Acts, for taking the Oath of Allegiance, and asserting the Royal Prerogative.



Do sincerely affirm and declare, that I judge it unlawfull to Subjects, upon pretence of Reformation or other pretence whatsoever, to enter into Leagues and Covenants, or to take up Armes against the King or these commissioned by Him: And that all these Gatherings, Convocations, Petitions, Protestations, and erecting and keeping of Council-tables, that were used in the beginning, and for carrying on, of the late troubles, were unlawfull and seditious. And particularly, that these Oaths, whereof the one was commonly called *The National Covenant*, (as it was sworn and explained in the year, one thousand six hundred and thirty eight, and thereafter) and the other entituled, *A Solemn League and Covenant*, were, and are, in themselves, unlawfull Oaths, and were taken by, and imposed upon, the Subjects of this Kingdom, against the fundamental Laws and Liberties of the same. And that there lyeth no obligation upon me, or any of the Subjects, from the said Oaths, or either of them, to endeavour any change or alteration of the Government, either in Church or State, as it is now established by the Laws of the Kingdom.